JAINAM JAYATI SHASANAM

LABDHI BAAL VAARTA

Series

Part - 11



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PUBLISHERS NOTE

"LABDHI BAAL VAARTA" are wonderful short stories collected from various sources which were in different languages. We are grateful to all those authors. Specially YashovarmSurijee, *Muni* ChandraSurijee and Shailesh Sagparia. Our appreciation to Poojya Acharya Sri RajYashSooreeshwarjee M.S. and his disciple Upadhyaya VishrutyashVijayaji Gani (Prof. M.S.), Satish Mardia from Chennai & Ahd. for assisting in compiling and editing, and all the donors and printers for their monetary & physical support.

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FOREWORD

DOES RE-BIRTH EXIST ?

Now-a-days children want to know everything with logic. If we tell them anything to do, they will ask, why ? So, if we give them hundreds of examples which happened with law of cause and effects like why Sita kidnapped by Ravan ? Why Draupadi married five husbands ? They will understand the matter and will do accordingly. So to bring them on the right path it is the easiest way. What one gives that only one receives. This is the Law of Nature. The western authors also like Arther C. Klarke and Dr. Brian Weiss have given many examples which prove the existence of soul. Here lots of examples are given of many historical characters by refering to the scriptures. (in Part 4). So if one wants to achieve good he will surely do good in this birth. I hope this book will surely make one walk on the right path i.e. right faith, right knowledge and right conduct which is the way to salvation.

Dr. M. M. Begani, Bombay Hospital, Mumbai
12th July 2019

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THE AUTHOR

Acharyadev Shri. RajyashSooreeshwarjee *Maharaj*, exponent of discourses, visionary and promoter of renovation of various temples, the epitome of renunciation and great preacher is blessed by Shri. LabdhiSooreeshwarjee *M.S.* & Shri. VikramSooreeshwarjee *M.S.*, his Grand *Guruji* & *Guruji* respectively. Shri. VikramSooreeshwarjee, his *Gurudev* was very effective in attracting people towards the virtues of Jainism. He was a worshipper of 'BHAKTAMAR MAHASTOTRA', the practitioner of high standards of sadhana, and was a very simpleminded soul.

The author, Shri RajyashSooreeshwarjee, a highly dedicated, courteous disciple of his *Guru* and lucky enough to serve, care, worship incessantly to such a great Guru. Being a great personality, his bright and exalted oratory attracts people at the very first instance. Infact, a few seconds in his auspicious company, confers profound happiness and satisfaction. He is deeply involved in various rites, rituals, disciplines & yet very compassionate towards everyone. He has a heart, very simple like a child and delicate like a flower.

He has suggested many new ways for the propagation of Jainism. It is the outcome of his magnetic personality, that the renovation of temples at Bharuch, Kulpak, Uvasaggaharam, Banaras (Birth Kalyanak Place of Lord Parshwanath), Godi Parshwa-Padmavati at Prerna Teerth, Ahmedabad, Simandhar Swami and Jagvallabh Parshwanath at Vadachowta, Surat and Vanachara near Baroda. Also new teerth at Navkar Dham,

Palitana and Sankheshwara Parshwanath at Richmond, U.S.A. are being established under his guidelines were made possible. He organised JAINFAIR at Chennai, in 1999 which was an epoch making event.

Thus in Part 1 to 6 [264 stories] & in Part 7-8-9 [185] stories were given now in Part 10-11-12 [163 stories] are being published.

Note : for details, refer book "5 Glorious Acharyas".

- Upadhyaya Vishrutyash Vijaya Gani
Dt. 30.7.2019 Ahmedabad

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In Jainism, "*Gyaan*" (knowledge) is considered to be one of the chief characteristics possessed by the soul. Jain thinkers believe that a human can acquire 5 types of *Gyaan*. "Baal Vaarta" is an effort towards "*Mati Gyaan*", which focusses on the development of mind and rightful thinking. Authored by Acharyaji himself, this collection of stories is beautifully written for kids. It inculcates key values in them in simple language. The topics covered are based on scientific and real-life questions that we all have, hence is very interesting to read. Once we imbibe these principles in our mind, we will start practicing on a daily basis. This collection can be used by "*pathshalas*" to impart values and sentiments into young kids and adults alike.

Sakshi Bhansali,
Media & Advertising, B.A. (Sociology)
Ahmedabad 16th August, 2019

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1 Never Lose Hope

Konosuke Matsushita was born in a very rich family, in a village called Vaasa, in Japan. However, the family's fortune did not last long. Konosuke's father suffered a huge financial loss which brought the family out on the streets.

Another calamity struck and Konosuke's brothers and sisters died due to a fatal disease. Konosuke, who was just nine years old at that time, had to drop out of school and work to supplement the family income.

Konosuke had hardly worked for a year in a company called Hibachi and the company had to be shut down. His search for a job finally ended when he was hired by Osaka Electric Light Company. He worked with complete dedication and got promoted.

In his free time, Konosuke used to perform experiments and ended up inventing an electric socket. Konosuke hoped to get a big reward from his company

for his invention, but he did not receive even a single word of praise.

He continued with his experiments. At the age of 23, he resigned from his job as he had decided to start his own business. Since he had meagre capital, he started a small partnership firm with his friends and set up his office in his own house. This was the beginning of Matsushita Electric Industrial Company.

However, the dealers were not ready to accept his company's products. Konosuke became bankrupt. The partners withdrew their capital. Konosuke's wife had to mortgage her valuables. Konosuke did not despair.

One day, out of the blue, Konosuke received a big order for his electric sockets which he sold under the brand name 'National'. It was as if his testing period was over and God was rewarding his resilience and patience. He began to climb up the ladder of success. Eventually, the name 'Panasonic' was joined with his brand name and his company 'National Panasonic' became the topmost electrical company in the world.

Moral :- Never fall on your knees before the difficulties that come into your life.



2 Why Are We So Depressed ?

There were two best friends whose status, job, income and lifestyle were strikingly similar. However, there was one major difference between them. The first friend was always cheerful whereas the second friend was always stressed out and depressed. One day, the second friend pointed out this difference.

The first friend explained, "Yes, our lives have a striking similarity. Also, problems occur in your life as well as mine. I also become anxious when a problem occurs but I do not worry about the problem before it occurs nor do I allow it to linger on my mind after it is over. On the other hand, you worry about the future and regret your past and let it affect your present. So, your stress grows threefold."

Moral :- Prepare for the future but do not fret over it. Do not regret the past. Let bygones be bygones. Avoid stress and depression.

Can We Express Our Emotions ? 3



A hermit's old-aged Guru passed away. The hermit started crying loudly. Many people had gathered there. They started wondering about the hermit's behaviour. One man couldn't prevent himself from asking the hermit, "Swamiji, in your preaching, you always say that our body is mortal whereas our soul is immortal.Then why are you lamenting ?"

The hermit replied, "I am not crying for my Guruji's soul, but for his body which gave me knowledge about the soul, which stayed hungry but fed me and which took great care of me. His body will never return. That is one reason and the other reason is that I am feeling the urge to cry. I do not want to suppress or hide my tears under the mask of knowledge."

Moral :- Let your emotions be ruled by your heart and not your head. Do not suppress your emotions. Shed real tears and laugh whole-heartedly.



4 Help Each Other

The topic of a life-coaching seminar was 'The Art Of Living'. The people attending the seminar were given a task. Each of them was given a balloon on which they had to write their name. Then, all the balloons were put in a room and the participants were given a time limit of five minutes to find the balloon bearing their name.

The participants ran about, but failed to complete the task. Moreover, due to the chaos, most balloons burst. They were again given balloons and were told to repeat the task, but this time, they had to catch hold of the very first balloon they could and hand it over to the person whose name was written on it.

This time, the task was completed successfully and with ease. All participants got their respective balloons and the balloons did not burst.

Moral :- If we help each other, then we can all achieve what we want.

5 The Burden Of Sorrows



A factory-owner would meet many traders and dealers for the purpose of marketing his products. He would also take his secretary along-with him.

One day, they were waiting in the reception lounge to meet a big trader. Suddenly, the factory-owner sensed a foul smell and realised that the source of the smell was his secretary's socks. He reprimanded his secretary for his carelessness and said that it would form such a bad impression on their client.

The trader postponed the meeting as he was busy. The factory-owner told his secretary, "We are lucky that the meeting has got postponed till tomorrow. You better throw away your filthy socks and wear new ones tomorrow."

The next day, the factory-owner sensed the same foul smell again. He looked glaringly at his

secretary who laughed and said, "Boss, I am wearing new socks today. Here is the shop's bill and as further proof, I am carrying the old socks in my pocket."

Moral :- Our depressed mind is like the smelly socks. We carry the burden of our sorrows wherever we go and then we complain there is no happiness anywhere.



6 Why Me ?

Arthur Ashe was a tennis pro and a winner of the Wimbledon Grand Slam. In 1983, he was diagnosed as having AIDS. The cause was the HIV-infected blood that had been given to him during a cardiac surgery. In those days, there was not much awareness about AIDS.

His millions of fans prayed for his life everyday. They sent him their best wishes through letters. One

of his fans wrote, “You must ask God that out of billions of people in this world, why did He choose to give you this horrendous disease ?”

Arthur Ashe sent a wonderful reply, “Thank you Brother for your best wishes. About 50 million children in this world want to play tennis. Out of them, about 5 million are able to play it. About 5 hundred thousand are able to play it well and about 50 thousand out of them are able to play tennis professionally. About 5000 get entry into national and international tournaments. Hardly 50 of them are able to reach the Grand Slam level. Only 4 players get a chance to play the semi-finals of a Grand Slam tournament and only 2 can reach the finals. Ultimately, the title can be won by only one player. When I became that lucky winner, I did not ask God why He had chosen me as the winner from among the billions of people. Then, how can I ask why He has chosen me for this disease?”

Moral :- If you view a situation correctly, then you can maintain your happiness even in a sorrowful situation.

A Stitch In Time Saves Nine 7



A young man asked this question to a life-coach, "We all face various problems, but why are most of us unable to overcome them, in spite of sincere efforts ?"

The life-coach said he would explain with the help of an experiment. He filled a pan with water and put a frog inside it. The frog could have jumped out of the water if he wanted to, but he was busy enjoying himself in the water. A stove was lit and the pan was put on it. Soon the frog began to feel the heat and started jumping to get out of the water. But all his attempts failed and his jumps became smaller and smaller.

The life-coach explained that in the beginning the frog was so engrossed in his enjoyment that he failed to realise the impending danger. Later on, his body started using most of his energy to maintain the balance of its temperature with the increasing

temperature of the surrounding water. As a result, he did not have the required energy to jump out, when he wanted to.

Moral :- Do not ignore a problem, thinking it is too small. Solve it before it becomes bigger than your capacity to solve it.



8 Someone Else's Pain Gives Us Joy

A family had gone for trekking. It was the monsoon season and their path was muddy. Suddenly, a small boy slipped. His clothes became dirty and his hands got slightly scraped. He started crying. The family offered to give him chocolates and even the cell phone to play games, but the boy wouldn't stop. The family started walking. The boy was still crying. All of a sudden, the boy started laughing. His elder brother had slipped. The boy said to his father, “

Look! Brother also fell like I did and his clothes have also become dirty."

Moral :- Other people's downfall gives us more happiness than our own success. We need to change this attitude right from childhood.

9 Discontentment Causes Distress



A King disguised himself as a common man and set out to go to the temple on his birthday. He had resolved to give happiness and contentment to the very first beggar he would meet on the way.

A beggar approached him for alms and he gave him a copper coin. The beggar became overjoyed and tossed up the coin. The coin fell into a nearby sewage drain. The beggar put his hand inside the drain but could not find the coin. The King felt sorry and gave him a silver coin. The beggar put his hand again into the drain. The King felt that the beggar

was not satisfied with the silver coin, so this time he gave a gold coin. Surprisingly, the beggar was not ready to give up. He put his hand inside the drain to retrieve the copper coin.

The King asked him, "You do not seem to be satisfied even after receiving the silver and gold coins. Tell me what I can give to satisfy you?" The beggar replied, "I will not be satisfied by anything other than the copper coin which has fallen inside the drain."

Moral :- We are in the same state as the beggar. We pine for a small thing which is lost and prevent ourselves from taking joy and contentment from the bigger things that God has given us instead.

10 Seek Pleasures In Limit



A vessel filled with honey slipped from a person's hand. The person collected as much as he could from the upper layer of the honey that fell on the floor.

After sometime, several flies were drawn by the sweetness of the honey lying on the floor. They were so busy enjoying the taste of honey that they failed to realise that the honey was gradually sticking to their wings. Eventually, the wings became so sticky that they were unable to fly away and paid with their lives because of their greed for honey.

Even more surprising was that new flies continued to come, despite witnessing the ill-fate of their fellow-beings. They could not control their temptation to eat the honey and sent an open invitation to death.

Moral :- Pleasures of life will tempt us just like the honey tempted the flies. If we do not set a limit upon our pleasure-seeking, then we are sending an open invitation to our downfall or death.



11 Vengeance Never Pays

A carpenter closed his workshop at the end of the day and went home. He had left his tools on the floor of the

workshop. That night it rained heavily and a snake was forced to come out of its burrow. The snake slithered into the workshop in search of a prey. He slid over the sharp blade of an axe and it made a small cut in his body. Some blood came out of the wound and the snake was in slight pain.

The snake was vengeful by nature. He wound his body around the axe and lashed out at its blade. This made his wound bigger and caused more bleeding. Unfortunately, the snake was so blinded by rage that he thought that it was the axe which was bleeding. The snake continued to lash out at the axe's blade in a fit of rage and vengeance.

In the morning, the carpenter found the dead snake wound around the axe.

Moral :- We become so blinded by our emotions like rage, vengeance, jealousy and rivalry that we fail to see that the destruction which we are planning for others is paving the path to self-destruction.

The Valley Of Sorrow Or The Peak Of Happiness ?

12



There were two brothers. There was a stark contrast between them. One was a respected businessman whereas the other was an alcoholic. A gentleman felt curious about this contrast.

The gentleman went to the alcoholic brother's house and asked him what had made him the kind of person he was. The alcoholic vented his feelings, "My father was a gambler and an alcoholic. He used to return home daily in a drunken state and pick quarrels. I was adversely affected by this and started drinking alcohol like my father. So, I hold my father responsible for the kind of person I am today."

The gentleman then went to meet the second brother. This is what the second brother said, "I watched everyday the damage that my father was

causing to our family by his bad habits. I resolved not to become like my father. I became determined to fulfil all my responsibilities towards my family. So I can say, I am the person I am today because of my father."

Moral :- The way we respond to our circumstances shapes our personality and life. You may either choose the valley of sorrow or the peak of happiness.

Enjoy Life 13



Three ex-students of a Professor paid him a visit. The Professor was happy to know that all of them were successful in their respective fields.

The Professor then instructed his man-servant to serve coffee. After sometime, the servant set the tray on a table. There were six cups of coffee on the tray and the cups were varying in value and

appearance. The students picked a cup each and their conversation continued while sipping the coffee.

Suddenly, the Professor changed the topic. He asked the students to notice that six cups of coffee had been placed before them whereas they were three. They had to choose their cup. He pointed out that they had preferred the attractive and valuable cups of gold and silver to the ordinary clay cups. The enjoyment is in the taste of coffee and not in the cup, yet they had given more importance to the cup.

Moral :- The coffee represents our life and the cups represent the comforts and luxuries. Do not worry about the cups, instead enjoy the coffee.



14 Good Luck Or Bad Luck ?

A farmer owned a thoroughbred horse. He received many offers, but he was not ready to sell it at any cost.

One day, the horse disappeared and the villagers came to console him regarding his loss. The villagers considered it to be his bad luck, but the farmer did not agree. He said that they did not have any understanding of the working of fate.

After a few days, the farmer's horse returned with ten wild horses. The villagers told the farmer that it was his good luck, but the farmer did not agree.

One day, the farmer's son fell off the wild horse which he was training. He fractured his limbs. The villagers gave their opinion that it was the farmer's bad luck. The farmer reiterated that there was nothing like good luck and bad luck.

Soon, a war was declared. The young civilian boys were compelled to give military service. Only the farmer's son was excused because of his injury. The villagers now changed their opinion about the accident and called it the farmer's good luck. The farmer only laughed in response because he knew it would be futile to make them understand.

Moral :- There is nothing like good luck and bad luck. So, do not let it play with your emotions.





15 The Right Address Of Happiness

An ascetic was dwelling in a hut in an isolated place. One day, a sad-looking man came to meet him and introduced himself as 'Happiness'.

'Happiness' expressed his grief to the ascetic, "O Holy One ! I am sad because unvirtous, devilish people are able to get me with such ease." The ascetic told him to hide in a place where such people could not reach him. He said he had tried every place but he was unable to stay out of their reach.

The ascetic suggested that he should hide inside people's mind. Only wise people would think of looking inwards for 'Happiness'. In this way, the deserving people would get him and the others would keep searching outside for him in vain.

Moral :- Happiness lies within you. It is futile to look for it outside.

Blessing In Disguise 16



A man was extremely fond of eating berries. Once, he went to his friend's farm and went wild with delight upon finding berries there. He started eating them greedily. In haste, he swallowed a seed which got stuck in his windpipe. He started asphyxiating. His friend speedily drove him to the nearest hospital.

A radiologist had to be called to detect the location of the seed. A surgery was then carried out to remove the seed. The man had to undergo a lot of suffering because of a small seed. But, this suffering proved to be a blessing in disguise. In the tests conducted by the radiologist, it was discovered that the man was suffering from first stage cancer. Due to this, he received timely treatment which saved his life.

Moral :- Many times, difficulties come as a blessing in disguise. They either give us a precious gift or a valuable lesson.



17 Remove Other People's Sorrow

A girl was born in a lower class family in a village called Pimpri, in Wardha District, in the state of Maharastra.

Owing to the poor financial state of the family, the girl could not study after class 4. At the age of 10, her parents got her married to a man who was 20 years older.

At the age of 20, she became pregnant. When the time of delivery was near, her husband threw her out of the house. She couldn't walk very far. She delivered her baby inside the cowshed in the compound of the house. She cut the umbilical cord with a sharp stone and went to her parents' house with her newborn baby. She was not allowed into her parents' house also. Momentarily, she thought of committing suicide. However, she quickly removed such weak and negative thoughts from her mind. She started begging at the railway station. She saw many orphaned children begging and living a life

worse than hell. She felt the urge to do something for those children. She adopted them and sent them to school. She paid their fees out of the money she got from begging. Her family became bigger as she adopted more children.

She is about 68 years old now and everyone calls her 'Sindhu Tai'. She has single-handedly transformed the life of about 1400 children without any help. Many of these children have become Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Chartered Accountants or government employees.

Moral :- We can forget our own grief by helping others to overcome their sorrows.



18 Positivity Helps Self-Healing

A reputed oncologist went to meet his friend at his office. The oncologist was introduced to his friend's business partner.

The business partner astounded the oncologist by telling him that a few years back the oncologist had diagnosed that he was suffering from throat cancer and had only a few days to live. Another doctor also diagnosed the same. However, the other doctor consoled him and advised him to have a positive attitude and that they would try their best to cure the disease. The business partner told the oncologist that he was still alive after so many years because of the positive attitude instilled in him by the other doctor. He also advised the oncologist to always keep a positive attitude and never tell a patient that any disease is incurable.

A true incident has been noted by Bernie S. Siegel in his book called, 'Love, Medicine and Miracle' about a pilot named Wright who was suffering from throat cancer. He had lost all hope of living. One day he read in the newspaper about the discovery of a medicine which could cure any type of cancer. He felt positive and confident that the medicine would cure him and started taking it. He got completely cured. After a few months, he read

the news that the claims of the company were false and the medicine was ineffective. He became anxious and nervous. He fell ill, the cancer developed again and he died within a week.

Moral :- The mind has the power to heal the body or destroy it. Give positive advice to anyone who comes to you with their problems.



19 Gandhiji's Fourth Monkey

A farewell party had been organised for the last year students of a college. The students also invited their professors and gave them gifts.

A Professor opened his gift. He was the favourite of all the students because he also imparted practical knowledge which was useful in day-to-day life. The students had gifted him the three

monkeys which represent Gandhiji's philosophy on life. The students then urged the Professor to give them a message.

The Professor said, "I love your gift. The three monkeys give us a message which is the key to success. This key is 'See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil'. But this key is useless without the fourth monkey. The message of the fourth monkey is 'Think no evil'."

Moral :- The quality of our thoughts shape our destiny.

Change Yourself To Change The World 20



A newly-wed woman was fed up of her mother-in-law because from the first day of her arrival, her mother-in-law had started criticising her. When the woman went to her mother's house, she vent her feelings, "Mother,

I feel if I want to stay alive, then I will have to kill my mother-in-law."

The mother explained, "If you kill your mother-in-law, then you will have to spend your entire life in jail. I will give you a slow poison which you must add to her meals everyday in a small quantity. She will die in six months. Meanwhile, you must behave like an ideal daughter-in-law, so no one suspects you of murdering her."

The woman obeyed her mother. She silently tolerated her mother-in-law's criticism and behaved very lovingly with her. Gradually, her behaviour changed her mother-in-law's attitude towards her. She stopped criticising and started praising her daughter-in-law. She also realized her mistake and apologized to her daughter-in-law for her earlier misbehavior.

The woman went to her mother and said that her relation with her mother-in-law had become cordial and she loved her very much. She begged her mother to give her an antidote for the poison because she did not want her mother-in-law to die.

The mother laughed and said, "I had not given you poison but an energy booster. I knew that if you changed yourself, then your mother-in-law would also change."

Moral :- Be the change you want to see in others. Mothers must give the right advice to their married daughters. Mother-in-laws must also treat their daughter-in-laws with love and affection.

The Right Offering 21



Once a guest was welcomed into a house and told to sit in the living room. While he was waiting for his host to arrive, the guest realised that he had not brought a gift for the host.

The guest took-off a painting hanging on the wall and gifted the host the painting which the host owned. The host was stunned by this cheeky act.

Do you think the host should have felt happy about being gifted what he owned? I do not think so.

We are no different from the guest. All things in the world belong to God. But we offer God His own things and expect to please Him. If we want to make God truly happy, then we must give Him our complete faith and chant His name with every breath.

A devotee's words : "I am totally bewildered God ! How should I please You ? There is nothing in this world that I can offer You !"

God's reply :- "All the material things which you have are given by me. One thing which I have not given to you and which is owned solely by you is your ego. Give your ego to me as an offering, your life will become worthwhile and successful."

Moral :- Let go of your Ego.

22 True Value



A son asked his father, "What is the value of human life ?" The father gave him a stone and instructed, "Show this stone to a green grocer and when he asks its cost, raise your two fingers." The son did as his father had instructed. The green grocer showed interest in buying the stone. When the son raised his two fingers, the green grocer assumed that the cost was two rupees and said that the stone was not worth that much.

Next, the father sent him with the stone to a dealer of antique things who assumed that the two raised fingers meant two thousand rupees and was willing to pay that much.

The son came home and narrated his conversation with the antique dealer to his father. The father sent him to a jeweller who was ready to pay two lakh rupees for the stone. The son came home and expressed his confusion to his father regarding

the different values assessed of the same stone. The father explained that the human life is just like the stone and its value is not determined by caste, creed or religion. Every human decides the value of his life by choosing with whom he associates. If the person he associates with is like the jeweller, then his true value will be recognized and appreciated.

Moral :- Be with people who can recognize your true value.

Ubuntu 23



This is a very nice story which reveals the motivation behind the Ubuntu culture in Africa.

An anthropologist suggested a game to the African tribal children. He placed a basket of sweets near a tree and made the children stand a hundred metres away. He announced that whoever reached the basket first would get all the sweets in it. When

he said, "Ready, Steady, Go!", do you know what these children did? They all held hands, ran towards the tree together and divided the sweets equally among themselves.

The anthropologist was stunned! When he asked the reason for doing so, they said unanimously, "Ubuntu". In African tribal language, Ubuntu means 'I am because we are'. The children meant that how could one be happy when others are sad?

Moral :- Let us not be selfish. Let us share and spread happiness wherever we go.



24 The Transformation

This is the story about the transformation of one of the kings of Kutchh, whose name was Lakha Fulaani.

Once the King had set out with his retinue for the inspection of his kingdom. He stopped at the boundary of a village called Baigaam to quench his thirst. He requested a girl, who was at the well, to give him water. The girl, whose name was Sumi, hesitantly told the King that she could not give him water as she was an untouchable. The King told her that he did not believe in caste discrimination and asked her to give him water without any fear.

The King decided to set up a camp and stay there for the night. He had been attracted to Sumi's beauty, her sweet voice and her cultured behaviour. He ordered his men to call a choir of hymn singers because he wanted to spend the entire night in devotion to God. Co-incidentally, the head of the choir was Sumi's father and Sumi was also a part of the choir.

Sumi sang such soulful hymns that her devotion and piety transformed the King's feelings towards her. He began to feel fatherly towards her. He announced that he thought of Sumi as his daughter and he was gifting her two villages of his

kingdom, namely Baigaam and Dhingda. He also warned the villagers not to treat Sumi's community as untouchable.

Moral :- A person's pious devotion has the power to eradicate the unholy and corrupt thoughts and feelings of other people.

25 One Man Can Make A Difference



A village near Nadiad (Gujarat) had acquired a bad name because its dwellers were addicted to bad habits and were ruffians. Due to this, no teacher wanted to teach in the village school. In case, a teacher was appointed, he would immediately ask for a transfer or he would go on leave.

A young teacher named Kantilal Budhalal Sharma thought that teaching refined, upper class students is no big deal. The real challenge would

be to teach in the village school. He voluntarily applied for the job. All attempts to dissuade him failed.

His loving and compassionate behaviour transformed the students. They began to study sincerely. He socialized with the villagers and participated enthusiastically in their religious and social festivals. He persuaded the villagers to give up their addictions. He spent one-third of his income on the poor and the needy. The villagers became cultured. When Kantilalji walked on the road, the villagers would come and touch his feet respectfully.

When he retired, the villagers tearfully bade farewell. They took out a procession with a band of musicians playing along as Kantilalji was taken around the village. They gave him many gifts which he donated to the school along with his three months' salary.

Moral :- Even one man can bring about a change. Where there is a will, there is a way.

Which One Is The Ascetic ? 26



An ascetic put his clothes on the river bank and went to bathe in the river. After completing his bath and ritual of sun-worship, he saw that some children had soiled his clothes while playing. The children's mother was washing clothes on the bank. The ascetic scolded her for her negligence. The children's father heard him and came there. He warned the ascetic against the use of foul language. However, the ascetic did not stop. Now, the children's father lost his tolerance. Words and physical blows were exchanged between both the parties. The father hit a rock on the ascetic's head, causing his death.

Upon meeting God, the ascetic's departed soul complained that God had not saved him, even though he had devoted his entire life to Him. God responded that when He had come to save him, He had not been able to recognise which of the two was the ascetic since there was no difference in their behaviour.

Moral :- One is identified by one's behaviour.



27 Quick Thinking

This is the story of a very temperamental king whose anger would usually be at peak during mealtime. His attendants would try to avoid taking the unpleasant duty of serving him his meals. However, one newly appointed attendant volunteered for this duty.

For a few days, things went smoothly as he took great care to avoid making any mistake. Unfortunately, one day when he was about to serve dal to the King, he was suddenly overcome by an urge to sneeze. He was holding a bowl of dal in his hand which shook, splattering some dal over the King's clothes. This invoked the King's wrath who declared a death sentence for the erring attendant.

The attendant knew that nothing he could say would make the King change his mind. He quickly thought of a plan. He poured the entire dal on the

King's clothes. Naturally, the King's temper touched the sky. He roared, "How dare you!" The attendant said, "Forgive me, Your Majesty! My intention was not to humiliate you but to save your reputation. People would have laughed at you for giving such a grave punishment for a minor mistake. Now they themselves will demand that I should be hanged to death for humiliating you." The King's anger subsided and he embraced the attendant.

Moral :- Quick thinking can help you get out of difficult situations.



28 The Art Of Diplomacy

A King had announced a contest for the artists of his kingdom. They had to make his portrait. Kings are usually vain and temperamental. Moreover, this king was blind in one eye. The artists

were afraid of offending him. So, all except three refused to participate.

The first artist painted an outright false portrait by showing that the King could see with both his eyes. The second artist did not hide the truth. He showed the King's disability in his portrait. The third artist showed that the King was taking aim with his arrow and his one eye was closed for this purpose. His diplomacy pleased the King. The third artist had been truthful without offending the King. He won the reward.

Moral :- Diplomacy helps to overcome problems peacefully.

29 True Love



Sunny Pawar, a young collegian and a resident of Dahisar, Mumbai met and eventually fell in love with a girl

named Aarti Makwana. Unfortunately, Aarti met with a car accident. The entire right side of her body became paralysed, she lost her memory and even her ability to understand or express. In this difficult time, Sunny stood by her like a pillar.

He became her nurse. He fed her, washed her, gave her medicines on time and made her do the physical exercises according to the doctor's instructions. Aarti would take two hours to drink just one cup of milk but Sunny would patiently coax her like a mother. He would talk to her to strengthen her will to live. Sunny would say to others, " I am no longer Aarti's boyfriend. I have become her father. I am looking after her just like a father looks after his child."

He looked after her like this for four years. Eventually, Aarti succumbed to death.

Moral :- Sunny teaches us that there is a vast difference between love and physical attraction. One often mistakes physical attraction to be love.



30 The Studs Of Fantasy

"Imagination is far more important than knowledge" - **Albert Einstein.**

Toyohiko Kagawa, a Japanese social reformer and preacher, once revealed the secret of his ability to work hard.

In his childhood, he had once gone for an outing to a forest with his father. The walk made him feel tired so he asked his father to carry him in his arms. His father was too tired to do so. When Toyohiko started crying, his father broke a branch of a tree and said, "Take this horse and ride it, so you will not feel tired." His father's idea worked. Thereafter, Toyohiko would ride a fantasy stud whenever he felt tired.

Moral :- Treat life as a game, you will never feel tired.

The Goal Of Happiness, Not Victory 31



Success is not achieved by competing but by becoming free from competitiveness because success is a spiritual experience.

Once the well-known teacher of personality development, Deepak Chopra was asked, “Is it possible to achieve success without competing? Won't competing cause stress?” Deepak Chopra replied, “From the day I have stopped competing, I have achieved a lot of success. I believe competitiveness saps your strength. It destroys your piety and spirituality. Once you are free from competitiveness, all your activities will be for self-enjoyment.”

Moral :- Competitive spirit will enhance your desire to win. Life is not to be won but to be lived.



32 A Mother Is Incomparable

This true story has been written by *Poojya Muniraj* Gunhansvijayji *Maharaj Saaheb.* It highlights the importance of meditative death.

"O Revered *Sadhviji* ! This is my twelve year old son. He has last stage cancer and there is no surety whether he will live for even a few months. I am going to lose my son but I do not want his soul to lose the opportunity to emancipate. I have come to seek your guidance. Please tell me how I can make his remaining life religious so that his soul gets emancipation ?"

Sadhviji replied, "Your intentions are very good. However, to realise them, you will have to make a lot of sacrifice. You will have to first take a vow that you will not cry or wallow in self-pity. You will have to resolve to harden your heart."

The mother said, "A mother cannot watch her child's pain silently and hard-heartedly. But I am ready to take the vow. Now I will allow tears to flow from my eyes only after his death."

First *Sadhviji* administered the vow and then told her about the religious rituals to be done daily which were as follows :-

1) The Eight-fold *Pooja (Ashtaprakari Pooja)*
2) Recital of *Punya Prakash Stavan*.
3) Narrating stories of people who faced death courageously with a smile.
4) Reading out books based on ethics and virtues.
5) To hang large-sized pictures of the *Tirthankars* and holy pilgrimage places in the boy's room.
6) Try to constantly maintain the boy's happiness and peace of mind.

The woman went home and told her husband, "Till my son is alive, you assume that I am dead for you. Do not keep expectations from me for either

social or any other matter. All my twenty-four hours will now be devoted to my son."

The mother's incredible efforts for her son's emancipation began. She would charge him up by saying, "It is an exciting challenge to confront death. You will now meet God." She would make him do *Pooja* with the best of offerings. She would take him to pay obeisance to Jain ascetics. She would request Jain ascetics to come to her house for gochri (collect alms). When her son became bedridden, she hung pictures all around the room as instructed by *Sadhviji.* She hung a board outside the room saying, "Please do not enter the room if you cannot control your tears or if you are going to say weak, negative things." The mother acted upon her decision firmly without worrying about displeasing anyone.

Days passed. Finally, the last day arrived. The mother did not leave her son's bedside. She pointed at the big picture of Shree Shankheshwar Parshwanath, hung on the wall in front of the bed, and said encouraging words, "Look son! Open your eyes and see Parshwanath Dada is calling you! Do

not cry! See how God is smiling, you must also smile like that. Today you have to go and meet God!"

The mother's efforts reaped fruit. Even in extreme pain, her son looked at God and smiled. The mother started chanting *"Chattari Mangalam…."* and he automatically joined his hands in prayer. Life was gradually seeping out of the boy. The father started sobbing and the mother looked sharply at him. He immediately left the room as he understood the message in his wife's eyes that their son's death must be a happy and peaceful one to ensure the emancipation of his soul. The son died peacefully and happily.

When the last breath left her son's body, it was as if a dam broke and the tears which she had withheld for months flooded out of her eyes. Everyone unanimously felt that she had been an ideal mother.

Moral :- "No one can match up to one's mother." However, this is said keeping in mind the worldly duties that she performs. On a spiritual level, this saying would be apt only if a mother succeeds in conducting her children on the religious path so that the last breath leaves their body while meditating about God.



33 Nicholas Effect

An Italian family had set out on a holiday trip in their car. One night, some highway robbers attacked their car. The robbers started shooting with their guns. In this attack, a bullet pierced through the head of the young boy named Nicholas.

Nicholas died. His parents at once decided to donate the organs of Nicholas which were still in working condition. This noble deed saved lives of other children who convinced their parents for organ donation in case they died. This incident triggered a chain of organ donation which came to be known as the 'Nicholas Effect'.

Once a programme was organised at the place where Nicholas had lost his life. Many children had gathered to pay homage to him. His parents were also invited. They were overcome with emotion to

see everyone singing songs and shouting slogans for Nicholas. Their eyes filled with tears when they read a placard on which it was written - "Nicholas we love you and you live on in us."

Nicholas' father said in his speech at this programme, "Nicholas was a very brave boy. He always dreamt of becoming an Emperor. He always said he would win the hearts of the people who would one day sing songs for him. We thought it to be his childish imagination. But today we are seeing his words becoming true."

Moral :- If a man had good wish it will be fulfilled by nature.



34 Do Not Consider Anybody As Ordinary

In 1884, the 15-year-old son of a wealthy American couple died of typhoid. The couple

decided that they would consider the boys and girls of California as their own and do something for them.

Their son had a strong desire to get good education. He had also got admission in the Harvard University. Unfortunately, he could not fulfil his wish. The couple went to meet the Dean of the Harvard University with the intention to do something for its students in memory of their son.

The Dean looked down upon this simply clad couple and boasted that the university was worth seven and a half million dollars and implied that it would be beyond their means to do something for the University. The couple thanked the Dean and left. The Dean smirked that he had made the couple realize their worth.

Here, the couple left feeling happy and excited. Upon learning the figure of the amount required to set up a university, they decided to do the same.

The couple was Mr. and Mrs. Stanford who set up one of the world's best universities, The Stanford University, in the memory of their son.

Moral :- Do not judge a book by its cover.



35 Man's Friendship May Prove Costly

A person encountered a tiger while passing through a forest. He quickly climbed up the nearest tree to save himself. Immediately, he realized that he had jumped out of the frying pan into the fire. There was a wild monkey on that tree.

However, the monkey assured the man that he need not fear. The tiger did not budge from the foot of the tree. Soon, it was nightfall. The man and the monkey decided to sleep turn by turn.

First it was the monkey's turn to stay awake. The tiger tried to persuade the monkey to push down the man by telling him that they both were brothers since they both were animals and the man was the outsider. But the monkey refused to betray the man's trust.

After sometime, the monkey slept and the man stayed awake. The tiger told the man that he would

spare the man's life if he pushed the monkey down. The man promptly accepted the tiger's offer. However, no sooner did the monkey touch the ground, he leapt back on the tree. The monkey said to the man, "Do not ever tell anyone that you are the descendant of monkeys. "

Moral :- Think a hundred times before putting your trust in someone and never break anyone's trust in you.



36 Think About Others Too

The people of a small town in U.S.A. were very happy and prosperous. A man visited this town because he wanted to find out the secret of its prosperity.

He decided to sit in a café and observe the behaviour of the people who visited the café.

After some time, a wealthy man entered the café. He ordered two cups of coffee, one for himself and second for the wall. The observer felt puzzled. He saw that the waiter wrote 'coffee' on a note and stuck the note on a board on the opposite wall.

Soon, a man, who appeared to be a labourer, entered the café. The waiter welcomed him respectfully and took his order. The labourer said, "One coffee from the opposite wall." The waiter picked a note saying 'coffee' from the wall and tore it up. He served a cup of coffee to the labourer.

From this incident the visitor understood the secret of the prosperity, happiness and development of the townsfolk.

Moral :- God has given us more than what we need. So, let us help the needy.



37 Man - You Are So Great

Gahlor is a small village located in the mountainous terrain of Bihar. A labourer named Dashrath and his wife Falgunidevi dwelled here. One day, Falgunidevi got seriously injured in an accident. The nearest hospital was in a town called Vazirganj. In order to reach Vazirganj, he would have to pass a distance of seventy kilometres over a difficult mountainous terrain. Dashrath set out with his wife, who unfortunately succumbed to death before he could reach Vazirganj.

His loss gave him an inspiration to build a tunnel through the mountain to make the distance between Gahlor and Vazirganj easy to traverse, especially for people going there for medical treatment, so that they could reach on time. When

Dashrath expressed his idea to the villagers, they laughed at him. However, Dashrath was not discouraged. He decided to undertake the mammoth task alone.

He took a hammer and chisel and started living at the foot of the mountain. People made several comments like he had lost his mind due to his wife's death, how was it possible to cut the mountain with only a chisel, and so on. Dashrath did not let their negativity and cynicism affect him.

In 1982, Dashrath Manji, finally completed the task he had started in 1960. After 22 years of back-breaking laborious work, Dashrath cut through the invincible mountain and build a tunnel which was 360 feet long, 25 feet deep and 30 feet broad. Now, the distance between Gahlor and Vazirganj could be traversed in only 10 minutes. Dashrath had single-handedly given a wonderful gift to the villagers.

The State Government of Bihar gifted Dashrath a plot of land to appreciate his noble deed.

However, Dashrath refused to take it and requested the government to build a medical treatment centre there.

Moral :- In 22 years, Emperor Shah Jahan spent a big amount of money and thousands of labourers to construct the Taj Mahal in the memory of his wife. In 22 years, Dashrath worked hard and did a public welfare work in the memory of his wife. Think about it. Do we want to become Shah Jahan or Dashrath Manji ?



38 How A Mistaken Obituary Led To The Nobel Prizes!

Can you imagine reading your own obituary in the newspaper?

Alfred Nobel got the chance to read his own death notice, and he didn't like what he saw.

Alfred Nobel was a very wealthy and successful man. He had become an expert in chemistry and invented three of the most commonly used explosives in the world - dynamite, gelignite (used in mining) and ballistite, which is still used as a rocket propellant today. With the huge fortune he made from these inventions, Nobel bought an engineering company called Bofors and turned it into an arms manufacturer. He made another enormous fortune designing cannons and guns and selling them around the world. Then, in 1888, Alfred's brother died while visiting France. A French newspaper thought it was Alfred who had died and they published an obituary that began like this: 'THE MERCHANT OF DEATH IS DEAD. Dr. Alfred Nobel, who became rich by finding ways to kill more people faster than ever before, died yesterday….'

Alfred Nobel was shocked. Was this what people thought of him? Was this the legacy he would leave to the world?

That's when he decided to use his vast wealth to make a positive difference. Nobel set up a

foundation with $250 million dollars in funding. Every year the foundation would consult the leading experts in the world and hand out prizes to people who had made great contributions to humanity. There would be prizes for **sciences**, for **literature**, and for promoting **peace.**

Today the Nobel Prizes are probably the best known and most prestigious awards in the world. They have been awarded to great scientists, authors and activists and helped draw attention to many outstanding works and worthy causes.

Nobel set up his foundation in 1895, just in time to influence his own obituary. He died only a year later. The Nobel Prizes accomplished his wish; they created a very different legacy for him than a reputation as 'The Merchant of Death'.

Moral :- He is not remembered as an explosives inventor or arms dealer, but as one of the greatest philanthropists of all time. He is also a great example of how it is never too late to change your life and help make the world a better place.

39 Being Human



It was the summer season. At noon, a beggar was wandering in the scorching heat. He was very thirsty. All the shops in that area were shut, except one. The thirsty beggar approached the owner of the shop. He was busy doing his accounts. The beggar requested him to give some water. The owner asked him to wait until the man-servant returned. The beggar was dying of thirst and after some time he pleaded for water again. The owner again told him to wait for his man. In response, the beggar said, “Sir, why don't you become a man for some time?”

Moral :- We hear that humanity is scarce. So, why don't we become human at times?

Fruits Of Good Deeds 40



An ordinary Scottish farmer named **Fleming** heard cries for help when he was working in his farm one day. A small boy had fallen in the ditch on the roadside near the farm. Fleming saved him.

The boy's father was eternally gratefully and wanted to repay Fleming's favour. However, Fleming refused saying that he had only done his duty. The boy's father learnt that Fleming could not afford to send his son to school so he undertook the responsibility of Fleming's son's education.

Fleming's son was **Alexander Fleming** – the scientist who discovered penicillin. The boy, whom the farmer had rescued, contracted pneumonia in his youth and could only be saved because of the penicillin. So, the Flemings saved the boy twice. This boy was none other than **Winston Churchill** – the dynamic Prime Minister of England.

Moral :- Newton's third law of motion states – "Every action has an equal and opposite reaction". This law is not merely confined to field of Physics. It is applicable in practical life as well. Givers gain.

OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER IS SO SHORT 41



"Our Journey Together Is So Short" - a beautiful message for all of us....

A young lady sat in a bus. At the next stop a loud and grumpy old lady came and sat by her. She squeezed into the seat and bumped her with her numerous bags.

The person sitting on the other side of the young lady got upset and asked her why she did not speak up and say something.

The young lady responded with a smile, "It is not necessary to be rude or argue over something

so insignificant, the journey together is so short. I get off at the next stop."

This response deserves to be written in golden letters: "It is not necessary to argue over something so insignificant, our journey together is so short."

If each one of us realized that our time here is so short that to darken it with quarrels, futile arguments, not forgiving others, discontentment and a fault finding attitude would be a waste of time and energy.

Did someone break your heart? "Be calm, the journey is so short."

Did someone betray, bully, cheat or humiliate you? "Be calm, forgive, the journey is so short."

Whatever troubles anyone brings us, let us remember that "our journey together is so short."

No one knows the duration of this journey. No one knows when their stop will come. "Our journey together is so short."

Moral :- Let us cherish friends and family. Let us be respectful, kind and forgiving to each other.

Let us be filled with gratitude and gladness. If I have ever hurt you, I ask for your forgiveness. If you have ever hurt me, you already have my forgiveness. After all, "Our Journey Together is so Short!"

Big Results Of Small Help 42



It was the year 1892. Two students of the Stanford University of the United States belonged to a low income family and they decided to organize a musical event of the famous pianist Ignacy Paderewski in order to arrange for money to pay their fees. Ignacy Paderewski had charged 2000 dollars as his fee and the two students were confident that they would easily earn a big profit from this event.

Unfortunately, fortune did not favour them. They could earn merely 1600 dollars which was not enough

to pay even Ignacy Paderewski's fee. The students approached Paderewski and expressed their dilemma. They requested him to accept what they had managed to earn and promised that they would leave their studies and earn the remaining 400 dollars and pay him.

Paderewski refused to take the 1600 dollars. He told the students not to leave their studies and also he did not want his fee. The students were extremely grateful to him.

Years later, Ignacy Paderewski became the Prime minister of Poland. In 1919, at the end of First World War, Poland was in a financial crisis. The people did not even have food to eat. Paderewski approached other nations of the world for help. However, they refused because they were also affected by the war. As a last resort, Paderewski asked for help from the American Food Organization. At that time Herbert Hoover was serving as its Head (later from 1928 to 1933, he was also the President of the United States). Herbert Hoover helped Poland over and above all expectations.

Ignacy Paderewski went to the the United States to personally thank Herbert Hoover. At the meeting Hoover said, "Mr. Prime Minister you need not say thank you. In 1892, you had helped two Stanford University students to continue their studies. I am one of those students."

Moral :- Help given without any expectation is like a boomerang which always comes back to us. We enjoy taking. Sometimes, we should also experience the joy of giving. Givers Gain.

Light A Small Lamp 43



One day two friends were sitting on a sea-shore and talking. Suddenly, a big wave reached upto them and receded, leaving behind many fishes which started writhing in pain.

One friend started picking and throwing the fishes one by one into the sea. The other friend watched his action and started laughing. The first friend asked, "Why are you laughing?" The friend replied, "I am laughing at your foolishness. There are thousands of fishes here. How many will you save? What difference will your attempt make?"

The first friend, throwing the fish he was holding into the sea, responded, "Look I saved this fish and it made a difference to at least this one!"

Many times we want to eradicate the evils that are prevailing in the society but we feel that one person's attempts cannot make any difference. This small story gives us the answer to our dilemma. What if we cannot become the sun, we can become a small lamp which can give a small amount of light to pierce the darkness in its surroundings.

Moral :- Better to light a lamp than curse the darkness.

The Joy of Giving 44



A boy cheerfully entered an ice-cream parlour and sat at a table. When the waiter came to take his order, he looked scornfully at the boy who appeared to be from the lower section of the society.

The boy said that he loved to eat strawberry ice-cream sprinkled with chocolate chips and asked the cost of 1 cup. The waiter said, "Twenty– five rupees." The boy said, "Please wait for a minute." Then he started piling coins on the table from his pocket. The waiter stood there disdainfully while the boy counted the coins. The waiter saw that the boy had exactly 25 rupees.

Now the boy asked the waiter the cost of the ice-cream without chocolate chips and the waiter answered that it was twenty rupees. The boy

ordered the ice-cream without chocolate chips. The waiter went to fulfil the order thinking to himself that the boy had not ordered his favourite ice-cream even though he had the money. By saving five rupees was he going to build a bungalow?

The boy joyfully ate the ice-cream, paid the bill and gave a smile to the waiter while leaving. When the waiter went to the table to pick the empty cup, the sight on the table brought tears to his eyes.

The boy had left a handwritten note, "A small gift for the one who served me the ice-cream so lovingly." A five-rupee coin was lying next to the note.

Moral :- Think about the ordinary men who give small services. Without any hesitation we pay a bill of thousand rupees to a restaurant owner but think a thousand times before giving a small tip to a waiter.

Omprakash Yadav 45



Omprakash Yadav, a resident of a city in Uttar Pradesh, a 12-year old boy, studying in seventh grade, was going to school by taxi-pool. Suddenly, the taxi caught fire due to short circuit in its gas kit. The driver jumped out of the vehicle to save his life.

The windows were locked. So, Omprakash broke the glass and jumped out of the window. His back had caught fire and he was in extreme pain. However, in this moment of crisis, the screams of his friends trapped inside the taxi made him ignore his own pain. Without a second thought, he jumped back into the vehicle and started helping the children to get out. The flames started scalding his face. Uncaring towards this, he saved all the eight children.

His severely burnt face is proof of his valour. His face has become ugly and may repel many people but not his own family and friends and the families of the children whom he saved. He also got the inner satisfaction of saving his fellow school-mates.

Moral :- Saving lives selflessly is one of the nobelest deeds that one can ever do.

Feeling Other People's Pain 46



A 30-year old man was standing outside Tata Cancer Hospital in Mumbai. His brows wrinkled with concern as he observed the patients and their relatives who were entering the hospital. There were many villagers among them. They were facing many problems like where to live? What to eat? How to buy the medicines? The young man felt the desire to help them.

After returning home, the young man could not eat or sleep peacefully. He was troubled by one question - How to help the poor patients and their relatives who came alongwith them for their treatment?

The young man sold his hotel and business and the money which he got was used to start a service centre in front of Tata Hospital. He started supplying free medicines and food to the patients and their relatives. This welfare work was started more than 27 years ago and even today the benevolent man, now in his fifties, is helping more than 700 patients daily.

This noble man's name is Harakhchand Saavla. He has established the 'Jeevanjyot Trust' which carries on 62 kinds of welfare projects. It has started a medicine bank aided by 3 pharmasists to provide free medicines. A Toy Bank has been established which collects used toys and distributes them among children suffering from cancer so that the joy of playing makes them forget the fear of death.

Harakhchand Saavla has not received any honour or award, yet he continues this noble work without any expectations.

Moral :- Help others for the joy you will get from wiping their tears. Do not help out of expectation of reward and recognition.

The Boomerang of Life 47



A kind-hearted woman had resolved that she would put the first roti made by her on the sill of the street–side window of her house so that any needy person could eat it.

One day a beggar picked the roti and said, "The bad done by us stays with us and the good always returns to us." The woman failed to understand his words. The next day, the beggar again came for the roti and repeated his words. The

woman thought that instead of showing gratitude the beggar was preaching her. It became a daily routine.

One day, the woman could not control her temper. She was angry that the beggar was eating her roti since so many days without a word of thanks. She applied poison on the roti and kept it on the window sill. However, the very next moment she quickly took it away and burnt it in the stove because her conscience pricked her. She made another roti and put it on the sill.

After sometime, someone knocked on her door. When she opened the door, she was taken aback to see her son who had run away from the house a long time ago. He was in very poor condition. His entire body was trembling. The woman hugged her son and started crying. Her son said, "I was hungry since many days. I reached the border of our village with great difficulty. I was lying in a semi-conscious state. A beggar passed by me. He had a roti in his hand. I gazed at the roti longingly. The beggar gave me the roti saying that

he ate the roti every day but today I needed the roti more than he did. I ate the roti."

The woman got a shock and fell down as realisation struck her. She cried, "Oh God! What if I had given that poisonous roti to the beggar in a fit of temper? Now I understand the beggar's words."

Moral :- As we sow, so we shall reap.

The Difference Between Heaven And Hell 48



A child had a great desire to see heaven and hell. He used to pray to God everyday. One day, God promised to fulfil his wish. God asked the child, "Son, tell me, what do you want to visit first – Heaven or Hell?" The child replied, "God show me Hell first, then if I wish I can rest for some time in Heaven."

God took him to Hell. First, He took the child to its dining hall where a variety of food was laid. In spite of so much food, the living beings there were suffering hunger pangs. The child asked God, "Why are these people not eating the food that is laid here? Why are they wallowing in pain?" God replied, "Son, look at their hands. They are unable to bend their hands so they are unable to pick the food and take it to their mouth. They toss up the food in the air and try to catch it in their mouth but fail."

The child argued, "God, I feel this is not fair." God told him that He would show him the dining hall of Heaven and then he would know whether God was being fair or not.

In the dining hall of Heaven, the child saw the same kind of food laid out but the people there looked happy. Everyone was eating peacefully. The child observed that the hands of the people of Heaven were just like the hands of people in Hell. However, the people of Heaven were helping each

other. They sat facing each other and put the morsels of food in each other's mouth. The child smiled as light dawned upon him. He told God, "God, I have properly understood the difference between Heaven and Hell."

Moral :- We do not need to wait till our death to go to Heaven. We can create Heaven on this Earth itself.



49 Neerja Bhanot

On 5th September, 1986, a flight took off from Mumbai towards the United States of America. It took a halt at Karachi Airport. There were 361 passengers and 19 crew members on the plane. 23-years-old Neerja Bhanot, a resident of Mumbai and a native of Chandigarh, was one of the flights attendants.

At Karachi Airport, 4 terrorists, disguised as flight security personnel, entered the plane and hijacked it. The terrorists had intended to take the plane to Israel and do crash-landing of the plane on a tall building there. Neerja guessed their intentions. She went to the cockpit and helped the pilot, co-pilot and the flight engineer to escape through a secret door so that there would be no one to fly the plane. Neerja became the flight incharge.

The terrorists told Neerja to collect the passports of all the American passengers. Neerja understood that the terrorists would kill the American passengers, so after collecting the passports, she hid them. Neerja's cleverness saved the lives of the American passengers. The terrorists could kill only 2 of them.

Neerja continued with her efforts to keep the passengers safe. After approximately 17 hours, she got an opportunity to open the emergency door and she helped the passengers to get out of it. As she was helping three children to get out, the terrorists started shooting and Neerja shielded the children

from the bullets. Neerja sacrificed her life willingly and valiantly for which she was posthumously given many awards, including India's highest bravery award - the Ashok Chakra. She was the youngest person to receive this award.

Moral :- On one hand there are corrupt and treacherous people in our country and on the other hand, there are also patriotic and dutiful people like Neerja Bhanot. The future generation needs to learn and take inspiration from people like Neerja.



50 Be Happy Under Every Circumstance

Some travellers were waiting at the bus-stop outside GSFC, Baroda. A rickshaw driver stopped there and asked if anybody wanted to go towards Ellora Park.

The travellers felt sympathy towards the physically-challenged rickshaw driver and they sat in the rickshaw with the intention of helping him. The travellers enjoyed the ride because the rickshaw was spotlessly clean and pleasant music was playing.

One traveller requested the driver to stop when he reached his destination. When the traveller started to pay the fare, the driver refused saying that he only wanted blessings. The remaining travellers inside the rickshaw asked the driver why he had refused to take the fare. The driver clarified, "Brother, I do not need money. I am a Class-I officer in GSFC. I wanted to challenge my disability. I had to buy a vehicle so that I could commute without anyone's help. I thought of buying an auto-rickshaw so that I could give lift to people and be of some service to the society. By doing this, I also win their love.

The name of this magnanimous person is Mr. Uday Bhatt. At merely two years of age, he had got polio. Instead of complaining, he strengthened his will and became self–reliant. His wife is also

physically challenged. They do not wallow in self-pity but enjoy life. Eventually, Mr. Uday Bhatt has become bed-ridden but he lives with the same spirit.

Moral :- Nobody's life is perfect. Spread happiness and enjoy what you have.



51 Sacrifice to Conserve Nature

The incident occurred in 1730. King Abhaysingh of Marwad wanted to construct a magnificent palace which was to be built using the wood of Khejri trees which were found in the Khejarli village of Jodhpur District which came under the jurisdiction of his kingdom. So, the king ordered his soldiers to fetch the wood.

The Bisnoi community dwelt in the Khejarli village. When a woman named Amrita got the news

that the king's soldiers had come to cut the Khejri trees. She ran into the forest and pleaded to them to not cut the trees. She tried to make them understand that the trees were the lifeline of the people. Her pleas fell on deaf ears.

Amrita hugged a tree tightly to prevent the wood cutter from cutting it. The soldiers threatened her that if she would not move aside, then she would lose her life. Amrita answered courageously, "It would be a cheap deal to give my life in exchange of even one tree's life." Amrita's defiance infuriated one soldier and he raised his axe. Seeing their mother in danger, Amrita's three daughters – Aashu, Ratani and Bhagu hugged her. Amrita took the blow of the axe on her body to save the tree. Her three daughters, who were clung to her, were also cut down along with her.

Amrita and her three daughters became martyrs for the sake of protecting the environment. In 1973,the women of Mandal village at the foot of the Himalayas took inspiration from this incident

and undertook the 'Chipko Movement' (clinging to the tree to save it) and saved the forest.

Moral :- Conserve nature as it sustains life.



52 Humanity Has Not Perished

Meena and her younger sister were studying in Bharti Vidyalay in Rajkot. Both their parents had to work in order to make both ends meet. Unfortunately, their father fell ill and their mother also had to leave her job to look after him.

Meena and her sister were unable to pay their school fees. Her kind and generous classmates contributed and collected money for their fees. One teacher taunted, "If parents cannot afford to pay the fees, then why do they send their children to school?" Meena heard this and resolved immediately that she would become capable

enough to financially help the intelligent students who cannot afford to pay the school fees.

Meena became a beautician. She would put her daily earnings in her house temple and set aside 10% of her earnings to help poor students. She sold her two gold chains to pay for her son's surgery. In spite of her own financial constraints, she did not stop helping the poor students. Once she donated 10 sweaters to her daughter's classmates. Meena continues to do such welfare work.

Moral :- In case the question arises in anyone's mind that what does one get by helping others when one himself / herself is facing scarcity then the answer lies in Swami Ramteerth's words – "One who does selfless good deeds makes God his debtor and God becomes desperate to repay him with interest."





53 Parents Of Slum Children

Rehana and Jitu - This couple lives for the society. They care for children living in the slums. These children resort to crime due to lack of love and support. This couple gives them love and guidance just like parents would give their own children. They have set up an organisation called 'Vishwanidam' to educate these children.

Their work started in Rajkot, Gujarat and spread to the neighbouring regions of the city. Rich people generously give financial support to this noble cause and college students give honorary teaching service in the organisation. The children are also taught technical skills to enable them to earn their livelihood.

Rehana and Jitu have decided not to have children of their own. They treat the slum children as their own. They have also set up 'Happy Home' - a free shelter house for these children.

Moral :- The slum children are also the future of our country. So, rehabilitate them.

54 Put Country Above Family



One day a person expressed his dilemma before Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. He said, "Problems have risen in my family ever since I have dedicated my life in the service of my country. I do not want to sever relations with my family so I request to be relieved from service."

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel said, "When I committed my life to Gandhiji's mission, I sacrificed my family life for the sake of my country. The country is one big family and to serve this big family, if necessary, one must sacrifice one's small family. It is our pious duty to care for our family members but we are also duty-bound to serve our motherland which sustains us."

Sardar Patel did not utter mere words from his mouth but these were his heartfelt emotions pouring out of his mouth. He practiced what he preached.

Moral :- One who wants to serve the society and the nation must not be deterred by minor family problems.



55 I Am My Motherland's Child

In 1962, a war was going on between India and China. The fourth battalion of Garhwal Rifles was stationed on Arunachal border. The battalion was ordered to return because it did not have enough weapons. A rifleman named Jaswantsingh Rawat was not at all ready to surrender the border region to China.

Jaswantsingh was the only one to stay behind. With the help of two tribal girls, Noora and Sela, he set up whatever weapons were there in stock in different directions to give the Chinese soldiers the impression that many Indian soldiers were present. Jaswantsingh single-handedly fired constantly from different places for three days. About three hundred Chinese soldiers were killed in the firing.

The person who supplied food to Jaswantsingh was captured by the Chinese soldiers and they couldn't believe that just one person was

responsible for the death of three hundred of their soldiers. On 17th November, 1962 the Chinese soldiers surrounded Jaswantsingh. When Jaswantsingh realised that he had no way of escaping, he shot a bullet into his head with his own pistol because he did not want to be caught alive by the enemy. The Chinese soldiers beheaded him and took his head to China. When the war ended, they returned his head along with his copper statue to honour him. His statue was put up at the place where he had embraced martyrdom and the place was named 'Jaswantgarh'.

In order to honour Jaswantsingh's martyrdom, the Indian government continued to pay his salary and promoted him as if he were alive. His retirement was declared once he was given the post of 'Major General'. He was also posthumously awarded the bravery award called 'Mahaveer Chakra'.

Moral :- Our motherland is supreme and we must recognize and honour the valiant warriors who laid down their lives to protect our nation from enemies.

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